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Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 20 November 2006, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Ms. Al-Khalifa ..... (Bahrain)
(President of the General Assembly)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Organization of the sixty-first regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Allocation of sub-item (b) of agenda item 67 (Promotion and protection of human rights) (A/61/552)

1. **The Chairman** drew attention to a letter dated 25 October 2006 from the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee established to draft a convention on the rights of persons with disabilities addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/61/552). She recalled that at its 2nd meeting, on 13 September 2006, the General Assembly had decided to allocate item 67 to the Third Committee. In document A/61/552 the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee requested that item 67 should also be considered in plenary meeting for the sole purpose of ensuring that the draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities was adopted in a timely manner. In a second letter, dated 13 November 2006, the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee clarified the initial request by specifying that agenda item 67 (b), entitled "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms", which had been allocated to the Third Committee, should also be considered directly in plenary meeting for the sole purpose of taking action on the draft convention on the rights of persons with disabilities. That draft convention was due to be completed in early December 2006 by the Ad Hoc Committee and recommended for adoption in its report.

2. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that sub-item (b) of agenda item 67 should also be considered in the plenary Assembly.*

Request for the inclusion of an additional item by Qatar (A/61/235)

3. **The Chairman** drew attention to a request by Qatar for the inclusion in the agenda of the current session of an additional item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies" (A/61/235). She recalled that in resolution 60/253, of 2 May 2006, the General Assembly had decided to include that item in the provisional agenda of the sixty-second session.

4. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly the inclusion in the agenda under heading B of an additional item entitled "Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies".*

5. *The Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the item should be considered directly in plenary meeting.*

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.